

Plenary Talk By **Daniela Iacona**

Sustaining Quality: Robust and Enduring Accreditation Systems

ABSTRACT

Accreditation plays a vital role in assuring the quality and relevance of education worldwide. This plenary session explores the key characteristics that make an accreditation body both robust and sustainable over time, drawing insights from an organization that has operated for over 90 years. The session reflects on how structure, culture, and adaptability shape organizational endurance and trust.



Daniela Iacona

Director
International Engagement and
Governance, ABET
Deputy Chair, Sydney Accord

Daniela Iacona is the Director for International Engagement and Governance at ABET, a non-profit, non-governmental organization that accredits college and university-level programs in the disciplines of applied & natural sciences, computing, engineering, and engineering technology worldwide. Ms. Iacona has supported ABET's mission for over twenty years and has played a key role in the development and implementation of its global operations plan. Ms. Iacona currently oversees all of ABET's international initiatives, including its engagement in mutual recognition agreements, memoranda of understanding, and global outreach and collaboration activities.

In her dual role, Ms. Iacona is also responsible for managing all operational activities related to the governance of ABET. In this capacity, she is responsible for leading all Board of Directors, Board of Delegates, four Area Delegations and affiliated Council and Committees operational functions.

Ms. Iacona is currently serving as the Deputy Chair of the Sydney Accord, a mutual recognition agreement among accrediting bodies of bachelor-level engineering technology education. She is also a member of the International Engineering Alliance's (IEA) Governing Group.

Ms. Iacona earned her Master of Global Management from Thunderbird School of Global Management and baccalaureate in International Studies from Old Dominion University. She has also earned ASAE's Certified Association Executive (CAE) designation.